

Quiet Observations.

"Some will say that this torchlight business, whooping, hurrahing and howling around is all tomfoolery, or worse, but I don't think so," said a prominent lawyer, as he watched the parade passing on Tuesday night. "If there were not something of this kind to absorb or carry off the accumulated nervous force, or whatever you please to call it, we would go to killing each other or become a nation of lunatics."

"This is patriotic enthusiasm, or party enthusiasm."

"Patriotic fiddlesticks! It is nothing more nor less than working off this surplus force. Some people call it bile, but that isn't it. Bile is different. Men usually exhibit it at home. This is something that has always been common to the human family, and more or less so to the entire animal kingdom. It is called devilishness when it leads to waste or wantonness, crankiness when manifested in a small way, and hysterics when developed in nervous women. Were it not for these quadriennial opportunities to work it off legitimately there would be many more murders, and more diabolism throughout the country than there is. I have noticed that crime is at its lowest ebb just after a Presidential election, and at its height at the opening of the campaign. Just make a note of it and see for yourself."

There are so many strange phenomena connected with the human nervous system that it is hardly safe to denounce anything as nonsense that comes under that head. When a man may believe he is somebody else, or that he is an animal, or that he sees things that no one else sees, and all is just as real to him as life itself, what might not be?

It is not unusual to hear nervous persons say they feel as if they wanted to yell with all their might, or wanted to break something, or do something that would require extraordinary effort. Mrs. Martin Van Buren, as was testified to in court within the last year, used to ask her coachman, when driving along the streets of Buffalo, to drive to some place where she could "scream and yell," as she felt she would certainly explode if she didn't. Next to screaming and yelling she found most relief in crying.

Mrs. Martha Washington, according to very good authority, permitted no person to enter her room for 18 months before she died. The only living creature allowed to pass the door was a cat, and for its better accommodation a piece was cut out from the bottom of the door and a swinging gate put on, which the cat soon learned to operate. Mrs. Washington's spells, as the servants called them, frequently lasted for a day or two, during which she would moan and sob piteously.

Almost every delicate woman, and in fact nearly every woman, will say, if placed on the rack, that she often feels like hurting or destroying something. There may be a few husbands who might give some valuable information on this point. Some take spells of singing, pounding the piano, scrubbing, lifting or moving furniture, or going among the dry goods and jewelry stores to assist in keeping the clerks busy. Sick headache is another popular way of getting rid of this accumulated force; nervous headache is another, and making things lively for the children and the old man another.

Women, however, are not so much worse than men in this way, only they are generally more sensitive and show it more. (This is not to placate "Bessie Bramble.") Men have better opportunities to utilize or dispose of this surplus. They can stand on the corner and talk politics as loud as they want to, scuffle, lift weights or get drunk.

The periodical drunk is a favorite way of working it off. A man feels all nettles, he is restless, snappy and out of sorts. Things are too slow, and nobody seems to be doing right. The climax comes and the sufferer is soon as happy as a lord. It may be months before he touches liquor again. A dog fight, horse race or boxing match answers the purpose with some, and there are a few who can only be satisfied with a good body beating.

One of the singular things about this condition is the desire to do that which the persons know to be wrong. It was stated of a physician, in an article on nervousness recently, that a Bishop of the Methodist Church came to him in a great state of mind over the fact that when he took one of his "spells" he couldn't help swearing. So far he had been able to keep the profanity from the ears of others, but it troubled him wonderfully.

A model Christian lady of this city said to her physician not long since, that she was really afraid that she was becoming "possessed," for whenever she became nervous and a certain desperate sort of feeling came over her, she was sure to say a bad word, and like the Captain of the Pinafore, she said it with a "Big, big D." After ripping out one or two of that kind and kicking the wall a few times she would feel better.

Examples might be multiplied indefinitely to show that surplus nerve force is developed and stored up in the system, and that it becomes negative, producing results directly opposite to those desired. It is more than probable that what is generally termed mental aberration of mind and temporary insanity are nothing more than the action of this surplus negative force on the mind. For the time being, or until it is expended, this force controls the action of the mind, and prompts wicked and violent actions, such as murder, suicide, arson, brutal assault or malicious mischief.

A healthy brain probably does not generate more nervous energy than the occasion demand, yet it is possible that at times even the healthiest brain may get a little too much of either the positive or negative force, so that even the best men may find themselves nervous, and liable to commit an excess or indiscretion of some kind.

The Nervii, the cruelist and most bloody-minded people the world ever saw, were noted for their large and active brains. Caesar certainly is deserving of credit for exterminating them.

The excitement of battle is productive of a great deal of the explosive nerve force. Men yell from the word go until they are shot, or something happens. While approaching a battle there is not the least inclination to rush or yell; but when the fighting point is reached the nervousness changes almost instantly from the trembling, shrinking stage to the yelling, dashing, killing stage.

One man cannot get up much enthusiasm when all by himself; but when he is charged full of this nervous force, as a soda-fountain with gas, he can soon get a crowd to fizzing. Some men get so charged with it at political meetings that they feel as if they would burst if not allowed to yell. The same with successful and popular actors. They are full of it, the audience becomes charged, and when the climax comes there is an explosion. Actors, preachers, and lecturers call it magnetism. No matter what they call it, it is a bad thing to get into people on all occasions.

In olden times—not very old neither—doctors advised their patrons to take an occasional course of blue mass, sassafras, sarsaparilla tea to cleanse the system of bad humors that might collect. It was a good idea, if the means were proper. The negroes of the South, and many of the whites, always clean themselves out in the spring of the year, in order to avoid disease.

Is it not possible that a thorough quadriennial cleaning out of the negative, morbid, or super-abundant nervous force is conducive of healthier nervous action, consequently less negative phenomena? It is certainly within the range of possibility that the lawyer was right in his statement that crime, or negative phenomena, increases from the closing of the political escape-pipe until its re-opening. If he is right, would it not be the proper thing to encourage hurrahs and social gatherings, where people may sing and yell to their heart's content? Take the screeching, screaming, street gamin as an instance. His equilibrium is always perfect.—*Exchange.*

The Bible Revision.

The revision of the Bible, begun 14 years ago, is completed, and the publication of the Old Testament is anxiously awaited, not only in this country and England, where the work of revision has been carried on, but wherever the English tongue is spoken. Christians in every land are dreading the new work, however much it may excel in accuracy the one around which so many sacred associations cluster. Clergymen are wondering how many sermons will not bear repetition in the light of the new readings of familiar texts; scholars expect many changes and are conjecturing whether this or that reading, which they recognize as the true one, has been adopted by the eminent revisers.

The English and American Committee were each divided into two companies, one for the revision of each Testament.

When the New Testament was published in 1881 its companies were dismissed. Last July the English Old Testament Company finished its work and held its final meeting in the Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster. Dr. Schaff, President of the American Committee, who has conducted all the work correspondence relative to the work, was present at the meeting, and on his return home last week a meeting of the American Old Testament Company was held in the Bible House, the object being to determine the precise nature and extent of the appendix which is to be bound with the books sold in this country, showing the words on which there was a difference of opinion between the two companies.

"It is not probable," said Dr. Schaff, "that the new work will be published before spring. The English company has finished its labors, and our company will only need to meet once or twice more to complete the appendix, but it will take several months for the presses to furnish a supply at all ample to meet the demand. As in the case of the New Testament, the only authorized editions will be published by the University presses of Cambridge and Oxford, but in the absence of an international copyright, I presume this country will have many editions of the Old Testament soon after the first copy is put on sale. It is astonishing to watch the interest displayed as the book nears its publication. All over Europe where I traveled this summer, scholars are waiting patiently for it. An enterprising man tried to obtain my copy of the New Testament a few weeks before the market was supplied with the stock from Europe. He sent a letter from a prominent hotel by a messenger, stating that he was the agent of the London publishing house, whom I knew very well, and asked me to loan my copy for a few hours until his luggage had come from the steamer."

"Nothing specific can be said of the character of the revision of the Old Testament. The work has all been done at secret session, and correspondence has been conducted under the seal of secrecy. The Universities of Cambridge and Oxford have been at great expense in defraying the cost of the revision, and it is not right to anticipate their publications."

"By no means as many changes have been made in the Old Testament as were made in the New, for no new Hebrew manuscripts have been discovered since the authorized, or King James' version was published, while many new and important Greek manuscripts were used in the New Testament revisions."

"The book will be printed in many editions of various prices. There will be one edition which will not be placed in the market. It will consist of four large volumes, printed on heavy paper, corresponding to the presentation copies of the New Testament, a copy being sent to every person contributing \$25 or more toward the expense of publication."—*New York Tribune.*

"The British Indian Government is making strenuous efforts to encourage the cultivation of tobacco in the Bombay Presidency, and has been directing attention to its proper growth and curing that it may become an article of export as well as of local consumption, and neither pains nor expense will be spared to bring the Indian production up to the proper standard quality of the English and other European markets."

The above item, taken from the *Grocer and Country Merchant*, suggests the thought, why should not tobacco be grown on these Islands as an article of export as well as of local consumption? The soil and climate are here, and there is every reason for believing that all that is needed to enable the Hawaiian Islands to become one of the great tobacco growing countries of the world is good seed, careful cultivation of the plant, and proper treatment in the curing of the leaf.

From information furnished by Mr. George Wood, of Hingley & Co., it seems that the native tobacco now grown here is too highly charged with saltpetre to be of a satisfactory quality, but that this can be remedied by curing it over a charcoal fire, as is done in Central America and Cuba. And, also, that tobacco grown here from good Havana seed would probably be of a much better quality than the native variety.

The experiment is going to be made as soon as such seed arrives, and it is to be hoped that "Hawaiian Leaf" may become a standard article soon throughout the world.

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